REMARKS

Claims 1-51 were pending. Claims 5, 7, 22, 24, 39, and 41 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 18, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 35, 40, 42, 43, 46 and 47 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6, 8-21, 23, 25-38, 40, and 42-51 remain pending subsequent to entry of the present amendment.

Statement of Common Ownership

Both the present application, Serial No. 09/923,588, and application Serial No. 09/981,607 (now Patent No. 6,760,330), were, at the time the invention was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to Sun Microsystems, Inc. An assignment of the present application is recorded at Reel 012544, Frame 0688. An assignment of application 09/981,607 is recorded at Reel 012274, Frame 0328.

Claim Objections

Claims 8, 25, and 42 are objected to as being grammatically incorrect. Applicant notes each of these claims are grammatically correct as originally written. However, each has also been amended. The present amendments are believed to clarify the recitations.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-51 stand rejected under 103(c) as being an obvious type double patenting of Tahan, U.S. Patent No. 6,760,330. Applicant will file a Terminal Disclaimer upon an indication that the present application is otherwise in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

In the present Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12, 15-16, 18-19, 22-27, 29, 32-33, 35-36, 39-44, 46, and 49-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,226,748 (hereinafter "Bots"). In addition, claims 3, 11, 20, 28, 37, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bots in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,167,052 (hereinafter "McNeill"). Claims 4, 13, 21, 30, 38, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bots in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,238 (hereinafter "Yuasa"). Finally, claims 14, 17, 31, 34, 48, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bots in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,773 (hereinafter "Kisor").

Applicant submits each of independent claims 1, 18, and 35 recite a combination of features neither taught nor suggested by Bots, or the additionally cited art, either singly or in combination. For example, as amended, claim 1 recites a method which includes:

> "determining a first incoming packet community set (PCS) of a first data packet
>   received on an interface of said firewall;
>
> discarding said first data packet in response to detecting said first incoming PCS
>   is not a subset of an interface community set (IFCS) of said interface; and
>
> processing said first data packet in response to detecting said first incoming PCS
>   is a subset of said IFCS, wherein said processing comprises:
>   matching said first data packet to a first rule of a plurality of rules of said
>   firewall;
>   comparing said first incoming PCS to a second incoming PCS specified by
>   the first rule; and
>   changing the first incoming PCS in the first data packet to an outgoing
>   PCS specified by the first rule, in response to determining the first
>   incoming PCS matches the second incoming PCS."
> (emphasis added).

Applicant submits at least the above highlighted features are wholly absent from the cited art. In the present Office Action, a VPN group disclosed by Bots is generally

equated with the above recited PCS. For example, on page 3 of the Office Action, it is suggested that the above recited features "determining . . . a PCS of a first data packet received on an interface of said firewall" are disclosed by Bots in the following:

> "At decision box 320, it is determined whether or not the source and destination addresses for the data packet are both members of the same VPN group. This determination may be made with reference to lookup tables that are maintained by the VPN units or reference to other memory mechanisms." (Bots, col. 7, lines 1-6).

However, as recited in claim 1 above, a particular approach to processing may be performed if the first incoming PCS is a subset of the IFCS. In particular, it is noted that the processing includes "comparing said first incoming PCS to a second incoming PCS specified by the first rule." Bots nowhere discloses this feature. In contrast, Bots merely discloses compression, encryption and authentication rules. Further, the above recited processing includes "<u>changing</u> the first incoming PCS in the first data packet to an outgoing PCS specified by the first rule, in response to determining the first incoming PCS matches the second incoming PCS." These features are not disclosed or suggested by Bots. Rather, Bots merely discloses the following (cited by the examiner with respect to prior claim 8):

> "Likewise, the VPNU servicing the site where the destination address is located will detect that a packet is being propagated between members of the same VPN group. The receiving VPNU will handle the process of decrypting and authenticating the packet before forwarding it toward the destination endstation." (Bots, col. 6, lines 41-46).

As already noted above, the present Office Action equates the VPN group with the recited PCS. Accordingly, not only does Bots not disclose the above recited features, one would not be motivated in Bots to change the VPN group of a packet during transit. Therefore, Applicant submits claim 1 is patentably distinguished from the cited art for at least the above reasons. As each of independent claims 18 and 35 include similar features, claims 18 and 35 are also

patentably distinguished from Bots. Applicant has also reviewed McNeill, Yuasa, and Kisor, and submits each of the independent claims are patentable in view of all of the cited art. As each of the dependent claims include at least the features of the independent claims upon which they depend, each of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the above reasons. No further discussion of the dependent claims is believed necessary at this time.
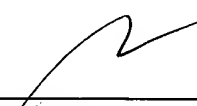
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-75900/RDR.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

Rory D. Rankin
Reg. No. 47,884
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin,
    Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

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